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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,505	07/08/2003	Jean-Luc Collet	FR920020050US1	9234
45095	7590	04/19/2007	EXAMINER	
HOFFMAN, WARNICK & D'ALESSANDRO LLC			TRAN, QUOC A	
75 STATE ST			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
14 FL			2176	
ALBANY, NY 12207				
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/19/2007	PAPER	

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/615,505	COLLET ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Tran A. Quoc	2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-17 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10, and 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is a **Final Rejection** in response to the Amendment/Remarks filed on 01-31-2007.
2. Claims 1-10 and 12-17 are currently pending. Claims 1, 9, and 10 are independent claims.
3. Effective filling date 07-09-2003, which claimed priority of 02368077.0 filed 07-11-2002.

#### ***Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:  
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –  
  
*(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.*
5. **Claims 1-7, 9, 10, and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Koss (U.S. Patent 5,231,577, issued July 27, 1993) [hereinafter “Koss”].**

Regarding **independent claim 1 as currently amended**, Koss states:

*A method for formatting a plurality of source text files each having specific formats to be imported into a single spreadsheet file comprising the steps of:*

*a) selecting a user modifiable file format profile to be associated to each of the plurality of source text files, the plurality of file format profile including at least one identifier with a corresponding formatting instruction;*

(See, Koss, col. 3, line 64 through col. 5, line 6, teaching the “XF table index,” which is the user modifiable file format profile to be associated with source text files, and “ifnt” which is the identifier with a corresponding formatting instruction.)

*b) creating a source-format link between the plurality of source text files and the selected plurality of file format profiles;*

(It is noted that a “source-format link” is defined in the disclosure as the link between the source text file to be imported and a selected file format profile. See, disclosure, col. 3, lines 13-21, the “source-format link” is read as any ordinary and necessary common addressing method for selecting the source document such that it can be loaded into the spreadsheet.

See, Koss, col. 3, line 47 through col. 5, line 62, teaching the “source-format link” as the index within the cell to read the cell format. In the cited embodiment, the “source-format link” is made according to a default format. However, the cells may be altered later to a different format and data may also be imported after that time, meeting the limitation. See, Koss, col. 9, lines 1-5.)

*c) importing the plurality of source text files into the single spreadsheet file after creating the source-format link;*

(See, Koss, col. 3, line 47 through col. 5, line 62, teaching importing the source text files into the spreadsheet according to the default formatting established with the link.)

*d) creating a location link between the imported plurality of source text files and their locations into the single spreadsheet file after the importing; and*

(It is noted that a “location link” is defined in the disclosure as the identifier of the location of the imported text file and its place in the spreadsheet. See, disclosure, page 3, lines 21-25. The

“location link” is read as the ordinary and necessary location address of the data to the spreadsheet such that the data may be identified and accessed within the spreadsheet.

(See, Koss, col. 8, lines 3-4, teaching that index entries are maintained to link the data in the spreadsheet.)

*e) applying the selected plurality of file format profiles to the imported plurality of source text files by using the source-format link and the location link.*

(See, Koss, col. 3, line 47 through col. 9, line 8, teaching the invention, including the application of selected profiles to imported source text files using the source-format link and location link.)

Regarding **dependent claim 2**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 1 further comprising before step a) a step of creating at least one file format profile including at least one identifier with a corresponding formatting instruction.*

(See, Koss, col. 5, line 35 through col. 6, line 68, teaching the creating of a new file format profile with identifier and corresponding formatting instruction.)

Regarding **dependent claim 3**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 2 further comprising a step of storing the created at least one file format profile into a file format profile database.*

(See, Koss, col. 5, lines 7-19 and col. 7, lines 16-64, teaching saving the formatted spreadsheet.)

Regarding **dependent claim 4**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 1 further comprising after step a) the step of modifying the selected file format profile.*

(See, Koss, col. 7, lines 16-64, teaching modifying a selected file format profile.)

Regarding **dependent claim 5**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 4 further comprising a step of storing the modified selected file format profile into the file format profile database.*

(See, Koss, col. 7, lines 16-64, teaching modifying a selected file format profile and storing it in a database.)

Regarding **dependent claim 6**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 1 further comprising after step d) a step of storing the location link into a spreadsheet user profile database.*

(See, Koss, col. 5, lines 20-34, teaching loading an existing formatted worksheet, implicitly teaching a user profile database from which the existing worksheet is loaded. See also, Koss, col. 7, line 65 though col. 8, line 38, teaching stored links in stored spreadsheets.)

Regarding **dependent claim 7**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 1 wherein the spreadsheet file is created by a spreadsheet program.*

(See, Koss, col. 3, lines 33-46, teaching that the invention is directed to well-known spreadsheet applications.)

**Regarding independent claim 9, as currently amended:**

(the rejection of claim 1 is fully incorporated. In addition, claim 9 is directed to a system to perform to the method of claims 1, which is rejected above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In addition, Koss teaches:

*a plurality of source text files each having specific formats to be imported into a single spreadsheet file.*

(See, Koss, col. 3, line 47 through col. 5, line 62, teaching importing the source text files into the spreadsheet according to the default formatting established with the link.)

**Regarding independent claim 10, as currently amended:**

(the rejection of claim 1 is fully incorporated. In addition, claim 9 is directed to a system to perform to the method of claims 1, which is rejected above, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In addition, Koss teaches:

*formatting a plurality of source text files each having specific formats to be imported into a single spreadsheet file.*

(See, Koss, col. 3, line 47 through col. 9, line 8, teaching the invention, including the application of selected profiles to imported source text files using the source-format link and location link.)

Regarding **dependent claim 12**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one identifier generates an action in the spreadsheet file.*

(It is noted that an “identifier” is disclosed in the application within the context of identifying a source file format with formatting instructions for formatting on importation of the a file. See, disclosure, page 3, lines 12-25. See,)

Regarding **dependent claim 13**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one identifier further comprises a plurality of identifiers, wherein each identifier generates a unique action in the spreadsheet file.*

(It is noted that an “identifier” is disclosed in the application within the context of identifying a source file format with formatting instructions for formatting on importation of the a file. See, disclosure, page 3, lines 12-25.)

Regarding **dependent claim 14**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 1, wherein the location link further comprises a directory path to the source text files; and*  
*the location link contains a related location and a size of each of the imported plurality of source text files.*

(It is noted that a directory path between the spreadsheet and the source file is necessary and inherent as the means by which the source file is associated with the spreadsheet. See, Koss, col.

7, line 65 through col. 8, line 64, teaching maintaining a size increment to the source files for either re-opening saved files or opening new files.)

Regarding **dependent claim 15**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 1, wherein the source-format link stores a format action applied to the spreadsheet file after the importing.*

(See, see Koss Fig. 11a-11b, and col. 8, lines 1-5, discloses update the index entries in worksheet cells to point to the proper entries in the XF table. When invoked, item 1102 initializes an index into the XF's stored in the file; decision 1104 then determines whether the value of the index is equal to the maximum number of table entries in the file. If so, routine 610 returns to the calling routine.

Also, Koss, col. 7, line 65 through col. 8, line 64, teaching maintaining a size increment to the source files for either re-opening saved files or opening new files.)

Regarding **dependent claim 16**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 1, wherein the applying further comprises executing a set of formatting instructions based on the at least one identifier contained in the file format profile.*

(See, Koss, col. 3, line 47 through 50, teaching the formatting identifiers.)

6. It is noted that citations to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. See, MPEP 2123.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.*

8. **Claims 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koss (U.S. Patent 5,231,577, issued July 27, 1993) [hereinafter “Koss”].**

Regarding **dependent claim 8**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 1 further comprising after step e) a step of deleting the location link.*

(It is noted that this limitation is read as un-doing the formatting such that the formatted cell returns to the default state. See, Koss, claim 8, teaching that a link may be eliminated when it is a duplicate. The term “eliminated” could reasonably be read as either moved to storage for use in un-doing the deletion, or it could be reasonably read as meaning that the link was erased. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to delete

an unused location link for the obvious and beneficial purpose of removing the link without the additional processing overhead of storing the link for possible later undoing.)

Regarding **dependent claim 17**, Koss states:

*The method of claim 8, further comprising updating a spreadsheet user profile to correspond with the deletion.*

(It is noted that this limitation is read as specifying saving a removed link, such as for possible use in restoring a deletion. See, Koss, claim 8, teaching that a link may be eliminated when it is a duplicate. The term “eliminated” could reasonably be read as either moved to storage for use in un-doing the deletion, or it could be reasonably read as meaning that the link was erased. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to store the removed link for the obvious and beneficial purpose of being able to undo the removal of the link.)

***Response to Arguments***

9. The Arguments filed on 01-31-2007 has been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Beginning on page 6 of 10 of the REMARKS (hereinafter Remarks), Applicant argues the following issues, which are accordingly addressed below.

**Regarding rejections of claims 1-10 and 12-17:**

Applicant argues that Koss fails to teach "**importing the plurality of source text files into the single spreadsheet file after the creating the source-format link**", or "**creating a location link between the imported plurality of source text files and their locations into the single spreadsheet file after the importing** (Remarks, page 6-9).

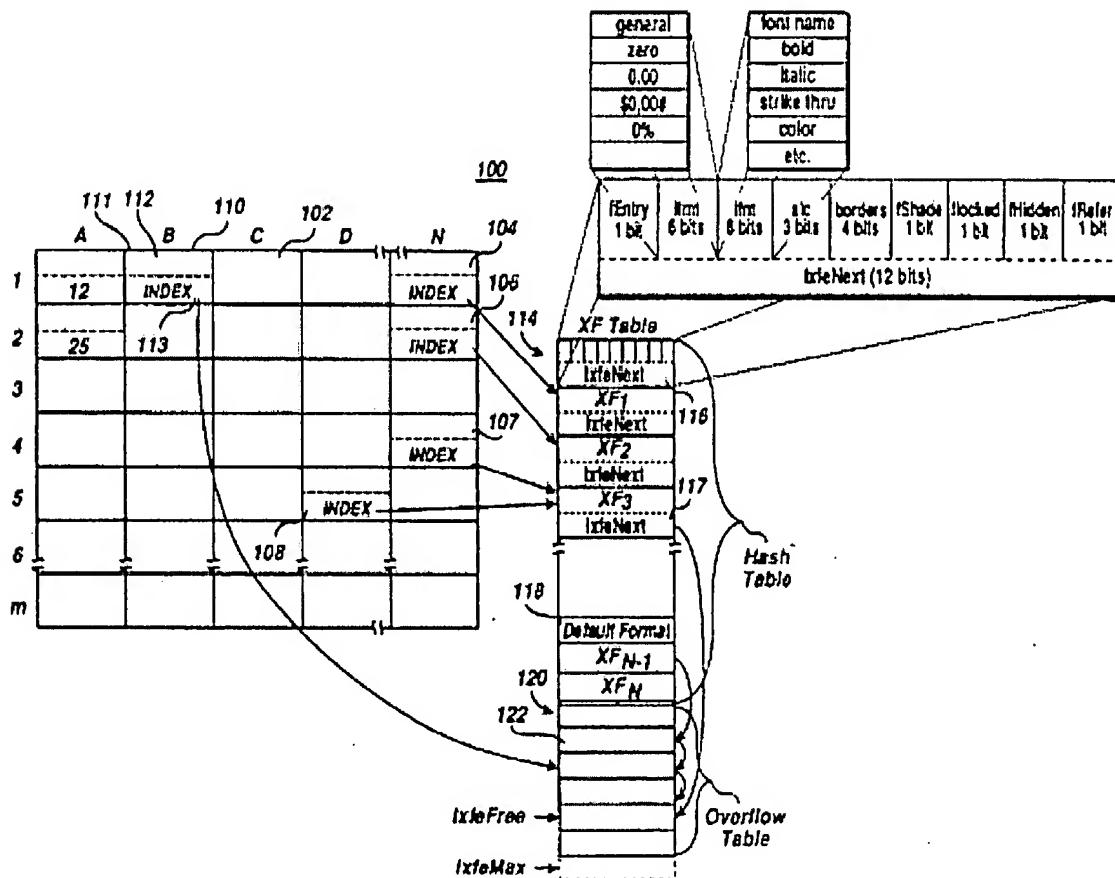
The Examiner disagrees.

Using the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim limitations, as discuss in the rejection above, Specifically Koss discloses a Excel spreadsheet application programs have the ability to display attribute information wherein data is displayed to the user with the same format attributes in which printed data will appear (see Koss col. 1, lines 15-25).

Also, see Koss at col. 1, lines 5-15, discloses each cell in the spreadsheet contains an internal index pointer which references a cell to an entry in the extended format table. Therefore, character format information is not stored in individual cells, and cells may share the same format combinations by merely setting the cell index pointer to point to a desired format combination.

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Also, see Koss Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 50-65, discloses system 100, a spreadsheet 102, and cells 104, 106-108, wherein each spreadsheet cell in the system 100 comprises a character field, e.g., character field 110; a border region, e.g., border region 111; a background region, e.g., background region 112; and an internal XF table index 113 which points to a location in XF table 114. According to the principles of the present invention, the table indices of cells point to unique format combinations, e.g., cells 104, 106 having indices which point to unique entries in the XF table 114, or may share format combinations, e.g., cells 107, 108 having indices which point to the same entry in the XF table 114.



Also, see Koss Fig. 3-4 and col. 4, line 60 through col. 5, line 10, discloses the process 208, wherein the cell format changes when involved by fetching item 402 to the current cell for and recalling the format in the XF table pointed to by the index of the cell. Then item 404 copies the current cell format into a temp location, and the control them passes the item 406 to change the relevant bits in the extended format of interest of process 408.

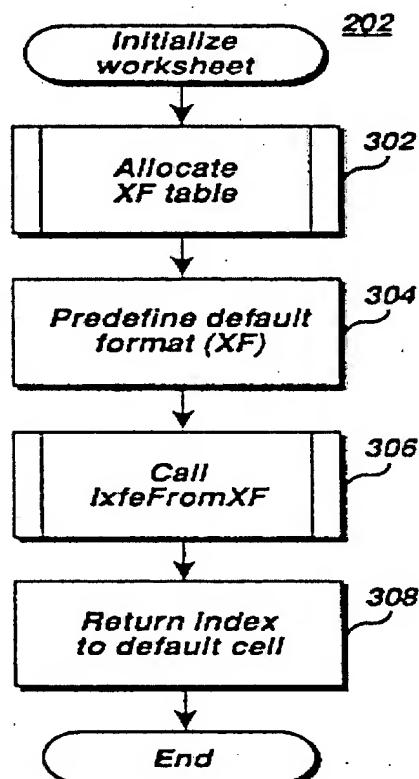


Figure 3

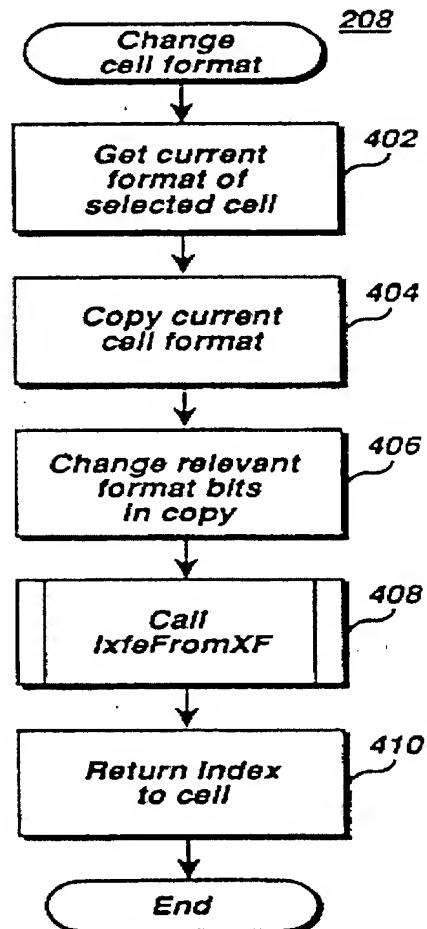


Figure 4

Also, see Koss Fig. 11a-11b, and col. 8, lines 1-5, discloses update the index entries in worksheet cells to point to the proper entries in the XF table. When invoked, item 610 initializes an index into the XF's stored in the file; decision 1104 then determines whether the value of the index is equal to the maximum number of table entries in the file. If so, routine 610 returns to the calling routine.

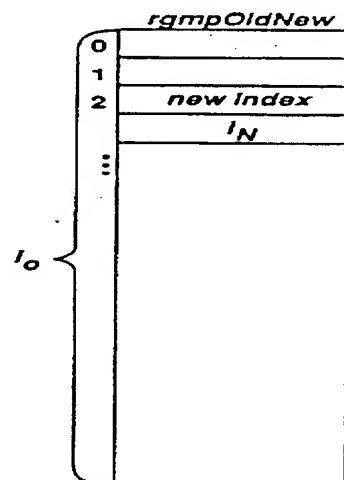
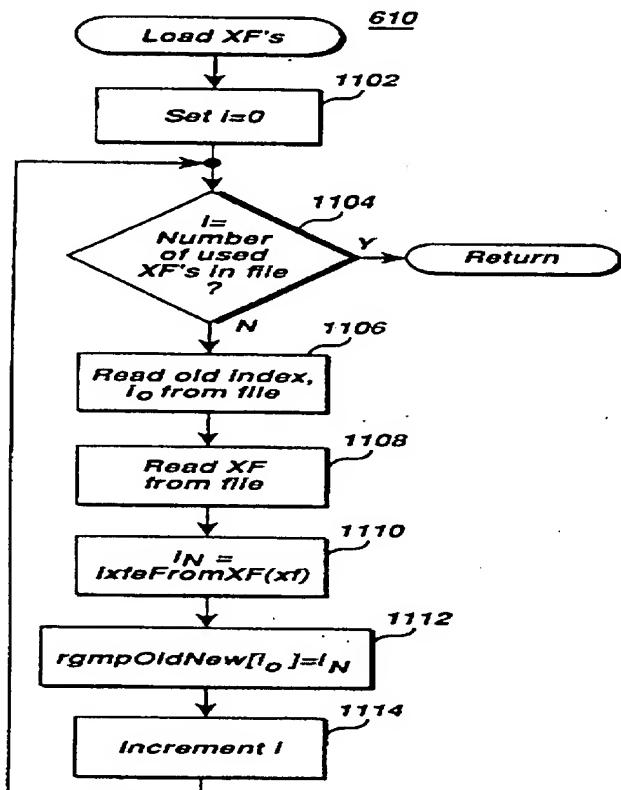


Figure 11b

Figure 11a

For at least all the above evidence, therefore the Examiner respectfully maintains the rejection at this time.

***Conclusion***

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-8664. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Herndon R. Heather can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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*Quoc A. Tran*  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2176  
April 13, 2007



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